

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

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/111 W

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O R 191120Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 750

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

DIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 2784

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (RUSH), MARR, PFOR, TH

SUBJ: CHARUPPHAN ON THE RUSH VISIT, U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE,  
AND THE TREATY OF AMITY AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ISSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 18. REPORTERS QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THE UPCOMING VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH AND THE TOPICS THAT THE THAI WOULD DISCUSS WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AT THAT TIME. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF CHARUNPHAN'S REMARKS WHICH BEGAN WITH A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE THAI WOULD PRESS FOR TROOP WITHDRAWALS.

CHARUNPHAN: WITHDRAWALS WILL BE CARRIED ON GRADUALLY, DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION.

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REPORTER: WILL TROOP WITHDRAWALS BE ONE OF THE MAIN

SUBJECTS BROUGHT UP FOR TALKS THIS TIME?

CHARUNPHAN: I DON'T THINK SO BECAUSE HE IS A CIVILIAN. I TOLD FOREIGN NEWS CORRESPONDENTS THAT SINCE EFFORTS TO RESTORE PEACE AND HAPPINESS IN INDOCHINA SEEM UNCERTAIN AND ELUSIVE, THE WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES HAS TO BE CARRIED ON BY GRADUAL STEPS BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS LINKED TOGETHER. SHOULD WE BE ABLE TO RESTORE PEACE TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, THEN THE ISSUE OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES OR FOR ANY MILITARY FORCES EXISTING WOULD BE ENDED AUTOMATICALLY.

REPORTER: WHEN THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE RETURNED FROM CHINA HE GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE SAID THAT CHOU EN-LAI PROMISED THAT NO FURTHER SUPPORT WILL BE GIVEN TO COMMUNIST TERRORISTS IN THAILAND IN THE FUTURE. IN VIEW OF THAT PROMISE, DO YOU THINK THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES COULD BE SPEEDED UP?

CHARUNPHAN: SHOULD TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN OUR COUNTRY BE EASED IT WOULD MEAN THAT SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE HAS BEEN STOPPED, AND IT WOULD BE A STEP GIVING INCREASED HOPE THAT THIS SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION WOULD HAVE GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IN PEACE AND CONTENTMENT. THE QUESTION OF IMPORTANCE IS WHETHER THE SITUATION IN COUNTRIES ADJOINING US, ESPECIALLY IN INDOCHINA, COULD BE REALLY PEACEFUL, TRULY PEACEFUL, WITH NO PROBLEMS WHATSOEVER FACED. MY VIEW IS THAT THE PROBLEM OF THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES HERE WILL BE REMEDIED AND COME TO AN END; THEY WILL BE GRADUALLY WITHDRAWN UNTIL NONE ARE LEFT BECAUSE THEY HAVE SAID THAT THEIR PRESENCE HERE IS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT IS CONFORMED TO AND OBTAINS REAL RESULTS. AS YOU KNOW ALREADY, DURING THE PAST YEAR SINCE THE PUTTING IN FORCE OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AS MANY AS 50,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN VIETNAM. IN LAOS, WE REJOICED AT FIRST THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AND THE LIST OF NAMES OF THE NEW CABINET WAS ANNOUNCED, INDICATING THAT A COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SET UP. BUT THE LATEST REPORT RECEIVED STATES THAT SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED AGAIN. WE MUST

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WAIT AND FOLLOW UP THE NEWS BUT I BELIEVE THAT AGREEMENT WILL MOST PROBABLY BE REACHED IN THE END. TURNING TO CAMBODIA, WE FEEL CONCERN OVER THAT COUNTRY WHERE THE SITUATION SEEMS TO BE INCREASING IN VIOLENCE. WE FEEL WORRY OVER OUR EMBASSY THERE ALSO AND I HAVE GIVEN PE MISSION FOR IT TO BE MOVED TO A NEW SITE BECAUSE ITS ORIGINAL SITE WAS IN A RATHER DANGEROUS AREA AND ITS

GLASS WINDOWS HAD BEEN SMASHED, AS YOU MAY REMEMBER. OUR EMBASSY HAS BEEN MOVED TO A SITE WHICH IS AT A GREATER DISTANCE FROM THE DANGER AREA. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT IT WILL BE SAFE BUT WE CANNOT HELP BUT CONTINUE FEELING WORRY.

REPORTER: WHAT OTHER SUBJECTS DO YOU PLAN TO DISCUSS WITH MR. KENNETH RUSH, IN ADDITION TO CHANGING MILITARY AID FOR ECONOMIC AID?

CHARUNPHAN: THERE MIGHT BE SOME POLITICAL ISSUES BUT AT PRESENT I HAVE INSTRUCTED DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO COMPILE DATA TO STUDY AND THEN DRAFT A LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED.

REPORTER: WILL THIS TREATY BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED?

CHARUNPHAN: THERE IS NO NEED TO HOLD TALKS WITH AMERICA ON THIS TREATY BECAUSE IT WILL BE IN FORCE FOR SEVERAL MORE YEARS. TALKS WILL HAVE TO BE HELD WHEN THE TIME LIMIT IS REACHED.

2. COMMENT: WE PRESUME THAT AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW CHARUNPHAN AND THE REPORTER WERE DISCUSSING THE TREATY OF AMITY AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS CONCLUDED ON 29 MAY 1966. IT MAY EXPIRE IN 1978 IF EITHER SIGNATORY GIVES ONE YEAR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION.  
KINTNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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